## REMARKS

The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection, and we believe place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 6, 9, 17, 19, 22, 25, and 27 have been amended, claims 7, 8 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and no claims have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 1-6, 9-13, and 15-34 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 7, 8 and 14 are being cancelled solely to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the current or a subsequent patent application.

## Objections

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 6 and 17 contained allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 6 and 17 have been re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and the intervening dependent claims. Claim 6 now includes the limitations of the former claim 1 and claim 5. Claim 17 now includes the limitations of claim 16 and the former claim 9. Amended claims 6 and 17 are now believed to be in order for allowance.

## Rejections

Rejection of independent claims 25 and 26 pursuant to §102(e) as being anticipated by De La Huerga et al

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 26 pursuant to 35. U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by De La Huerga et al ( U.S. Patent No. 5,895,461). Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, the Applicants have amended claim 25 ( and the other

independent claims ) to more precisely define the function performed by the redirection facility by explicitly noting that the redirection facility is an intermediary performing redirection of a modified request that is directed to an appropriate service provider for servicing via the requesting user, and that more than one target profile is stored by the redirection facility for each request. For the reasons set forth below, and in light of the amendment to claim 25, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

De La Huerga et al discloses a word processing system that recognizes keywords and associates the keywords with records in databases. The data records are stored automatically at predetermined unique addresses according to keywords entered into the data record by a user. References to other data records results in the creation of hypertext links to those other data records. Each hypertext link has a one-to-one correspondence with the data record. De La Huerga et al does not teach or disclose the use of an intermediary performing re-direction, but rather teaches the use of a user interface ( the specialized word processor ) in data retrieval. There is no intermediary in De La Huerga, the user is accessing the word processor which retrieves the data directly from the database location where the data is stored according to a pre-determined formula known to the word processor. The term "intermediary" implies something that is between other things and is a distinct entity different from those other things. Contrary to the assertions contained in the October 29<sup>th</sup> Office Action, there is no redirection being performed by an intermediary in De La Huerga, because **the Word Processor is both originating the request and performing the data retrieval directly. The word processor is not an "intermediary".**

In contrast to De La Huerga et al, the claimed invention employs a user interface which recognizes user input and makes a request of an intermediary, the redirection facility. The purpose of the intermediary is to redirect the user's browser to one of multiple possible destination (target) systems. De La Huerga et al teaches a system that directly queries a database or databases and returns a single record to the requestor. The claimed invention redirects queries to other systems after modifying the query based on user preferences and other data. **The modified query is returned to the requesting user which then contacts the service provider appropriate for**

the modified request.  **The redirection facility does not directly retrieve the data.**
The redirection facility is an intermediary between the originating client process and
the requested services ( See Figure 1 and the corresponding discussion and the
remaining detailed description section of the Application ).  Since De La Huerga et al
lacks the intermediary element of the claimed invention, and particularly lacks an
intermediary that redirects a request to one of multiple target systems,  withdrawal of
the §102(e) rejection of claims 25 and 26 based on De La Huerga is respectfully
requested.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 8-16 and 18-24 pursuant to §103(a) as being unpatentable
over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al

The examiner indicated that claims 1-5, 9-13, 15,16 and 18-24 were rejected
pursuant to §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in,
view of Minor et al ( U.S. Patent No. 5, 740, 252 )( claims 8 and 14 are being
canceled in this Response ).  In view of the amendments to claims 1, 9 19 and 22 and
for the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Minor et al teaches and discloses a system for authenticating a user using
demographic information associated with the user.  The system performs a lookup
function where demographic data is combined with a destination address and then
encoded using an encryption key appropriate to the destination address.  The encoded
destination address/demographic data combination is returned to the user which then
contacts the destination device with the encoded request.  The system is designed to
pass demographic information between computers.  There is no redirection function
performed by the system and no redirection facility.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the environment is a network.
Claim 1 has been further amended to indicate that the redirection facility is an
intermediary  performing redirection of the request to one of several target profiles
based on user preference, and that the request is returned to the user for forwarding to
the target.  Claim 9 has been amended to indicate that the user information and link
information is received with a redirection facility and that the redirection facility is an
intermediary  performing redirection of the request to one of several target profiles

using a modified request routed through the requesting user.   Claim 19 has been amended to indicate that the environment holding the medium is a network.  Claim 19 has been further amended to indicate that the redirection server is an intermediary performing redirection of the request to one of several target profiles using a modified request routed through the requesting user.   Claim 22 has been amended to indicate that the medium is located in a network and that the user information and link information is received in a request by a redirection facility redirecting the request to one of several target profiles using a  modified request routed through the requesting user.

All of the amended independent claims require either the use of a redirection facility or server which is an intermediary.  As noted above, the word processor of De La Huerga et al is not an intermediary and does not perform redirection to a resource via a modified request routed through the user but rather is a user interface performing a database retrieval.  Minor does not teach the forwarding of some of the link information to the identified resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink, but rather encodes demographic data with a destination address using an encryption key appropriate for the destination and returns the encrypted information to the requesting user.  There is no redirection of the destination being performed by an intermediary, just an encoding. The user then forwards the encrypted information to the destination. The cited col. 2, lines 44-46 of Minor in the Office Action is inapplicable and does not address the missing elements. Since the system of De La Huerga et al and the system of Minor et al both lack elements found in the claimed invention, specifically the presence of an intermediary and the redirection of the request to one of several target profiles using a modified request routed through the requesting user, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of  the §103(a) rejections directed to claims 1-5, 9-13, 15 and 18-24.

Rejection of claims 27-34 pursuant to §103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga et al in view of Gerace ( U.S. Patent No. 5991735)

The Examiner indicated that claims 27-34 were rejected pursuant to §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in view Gerace.  In light

of the amendments and for the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.
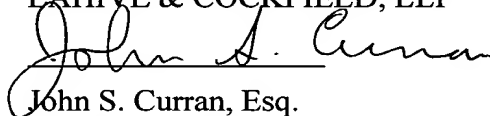
Claim 27 has been amended to indicate that the redirection facility receiving the request is an intermediary with more than one target profile holding information used to resolve the request. Gerace teaches a method of determining a behavioral profile of a computer user. Gerace does not teach or disclose a redirection facility which is an intermediary. The Examiner indicated that it would obvious to combine the redirection server of De La Huerga et al ( as suggested by the Examiner ) to implement customized advertising methods with the redirection facility. However, as previously noted, De La Huerga does not teach a redirection facility but rather data retrieval. Claims 28 and 34 are all dependent upon claim 27 which includes a redirection facility as an element in the claim. Since the combination of De La Huerga et al and Gerace does not include a redirection facility which is an intermediary, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections directed to claim 27-34.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants contend that claims 1-6, 9-13, and 15-34 presently pending in the application are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the allowance of the application. We invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400 if the Examiner deems there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"


IN THE CLAIMS


Please amend claims 1, 6, 9, 17, 19, 22, 25 and 27 as follows.


1. (amended) In ~~an environment having a redirection facility~~ a network, a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a user request to access information regarding a semantic value associated with a hyperlink at ~~the~~ a redirection facility, said redirection facility being an intermediary performing redirection of said request and having more than one possible target profile for each request;

identifying a user preference regarding which service provider to use to service

the request; and

~~based on the user preference,~~ directing the request from the redirection facility to a service provider for servicing the request based on the user preference.


6. (amended) ~~The method of claim 5, wherein the method further comprises the step of~~

In an environment having a redirection facility, a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a user request to access information regarding a semantic value associated with a hyperlink at the redirection facility;

identifying a user preference regarding which service provider to use to service the request;

directing the request from the redirection facility to a service provider for servicing the request based on the user preference;

identifying a second service provider to use to service the request and directing the request from the redirection facility to the second service provider to service the request when the service provider fails to fully service the request, and

identifying the service provider that failed to fully service the request at the redirection facility before the direction of the request to the second service provider.


9. (amended)  In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving user information regarding a user and link information regarding a hyperlink to be resolved to a resource in response to the user selecting the hyperlink, said user information received at a redirection facility, said redirection facility being an intermediary performing redirection of said request and having more than one possible target profile for each request;

identifying a resolution service to employ to resolve the hyperlink based on the user information; and

forwarding at least some of the link information to the identified resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink.


17. (amended) ~~The method of claim 16, wherein the method comprises the step of :~~ In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving user information regarding a user and link information regarding a hyperlink to be resolved to a resource in response to the user selecting the hyperlink;

identifying a resolution service to employ to resolve the hyperlink based on the user information;

forwarding at least some of the link information to the identified resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink.

identifying a second resolution service to employ to resolve the hyperlink and forwarding at least some of the link information to the second resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink where the resolution service fails to return content to the user, and

identifying the resolution service that failed to return content to the user before the forwarding step.


19. (amended) In a network, a medium holding computer-executables steps for a method, said method ~~A medium that is readable by an electronic device for use in an environment having a redirection server and holding instructions for performing a method,~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving a user request to access information regarding a semantic value associated with a hyperlink at ~~the~~ a redirection server, said redirection server being an intermediary performing redirection of said request and having more than one possible target profile for each request;

identifying a user preference regarding how to service the request; and

~~based on the user preference,~~ directing the request from the redirection server to a service provider for servicing the request based on the user preference.

22. (amended) <u>In a network, a medium holding computer-executable steps for a method, said method</u> ~~A medium holding instructions that are executable by an electronic device for performing a method,~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving user information regarding a user and link information regarding a hyperlink to be resolved to a resource in response to the user selecting the hyperlink<u>, said user information received with a redirection facility, said redirection facility being an intermediary performing redirection of said request and having more than one possible target profile for each request;</u>

identifying a resolution service to employ to resolve the hyperlink based on the user information; and

forwarding at least some of the link information to the identified resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink.

25. (twice amended) A computer-readable medium for use in a computer system and holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a resource, said request originating from a user selecting a hyperlink and said request being redirected to the computer system by an intermediary, said intermediary ~~being selected based on user-supplied information and resolving~~ <u>having more than one possible target profile for each request having</u> information used to resolve the hyperlink ~~based at least in part using said user-supplied information~~;

translating the request into a format that is acceptable to the computer system; and

servicing the request as translated by returning a resource to the user.

27. (amended) In an environment having a redirection facility for redirecting a selected request from a requestor for a given resource to a service provider, a method of advertising, comprising:

receiving the selected request at the redirection facility<u>, said redirection facility being an intermediary having more than one possible target profile having information used to resolve each request;</u>

examining a criterion at the redirection facility;

~~based on the examined criterion,~~ determining whether to present an advertisement to the requestor <u>based on the examined criterion.</u>